MCD/DDA Drive against encroachments

*19. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) Government's reaction on the news-item captioned "MCD/ DDA launch drive against illegal constructions (encroachments)" published in the Hindustan Times, dated the 15th June, 2001;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from the residents of Type IV Government quarters in Sector-III, R.K. Puram, for illegal encroachments on public land by some of the co-residents of the area;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what action has been take by Government on such encroachment?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The Government of India has been emphasizing on the various agencies for strong and prompt action against all illegal constructions/ unauthorised encroachements by various agencies. In this connection, specific instructions have also been issued *vide* Ministry of Urban Development's letter No. K-20014/6/2000-DDIA dated 28.8.2000. The demolition of illegal constructions and removal of encroachments from public land are ongoing activities of the concerned agencies.

(b) and (c) Representations have been received on:

(i) Enclosing of additional space by the allottee in front of quarter No. 577-A by shifting fencing provided by C.P.W.D.; and

(ii) Erection of barbed wire fencing and gate by enclosing open ground space on back and side of quarter Nos. 551 and 549.

(d) The Directorate of Estates has initiated action in the first case and issued notice to the allottee. In the second case, the works have

been carried out by C.P.W.D. under the 10% contribution scheme which is permissible and as such no action is necessary.

Anti-Defection law

*20. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Enforcement of anti-defection law should be entrusted to E.C.: Gill", published in the Statesman, dated the 11th June, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what other pieces of electoral reforms are proposed to be introduced to rid our political system of defection and frequent change-over of party loyalty by the elected representatives of Parliament and State Legislatures?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Certain proposals relating to amendments to the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution (anti-defection law) were included in the agenda for the meeting of political parties on the subject of reform of electoral laws held on 22.5.1998 but the discussion on the issue was deferred. The Election Commission of India for the first time in its letter dated 15.7.1998, had suggested that anti-defection law may be amended so that the President and the concerned Governors may act on the opinion given by the Election Commission of India. The Government, However, intends to discuss the issue with the political parties at the appropriate time as part of the process of reform of electoral laws since the issue can be resolved only through consensus among political parties.